



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

CEASEFIRE & NITRO UPDATE
**FIRST DEFENDANT CHARGED UNDER NEW TASK FORCE
IN NORTHWEST MISSOURI**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that the first defendant has been charged as a result of the work of the NITRO task force recently launched in northwest Missouri. NITRO is the Northwest Missouri Team Response Operation, a joint law enforcement effort by the United States Attorney's Office and federal, state and local law enforcement agencies in the 16-county region. Project Ceasefire is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement that targets persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms for federal prosecution.

Kirby G. David, 40, of Oregon, Mo., has been charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in a federal criminal complaint filed October 18, 2002. **David's** first appearance in federal court was at a hearing in Kansas City yesterday.

According to an affidavit filed in support of the criminal complaint, **David** was in possession of a Norinco SKS assault rifle on October 18, 2002, in Holt County. Possession of any firearm at that time would have been illegal, Graves explained, due to **David's** 1982 criminal felony convictions for possession of controlled substances; his 1986 criminal felony conviction for burglary and stealing in Holt County, Missouri; his 1989 criminal felony conviction for tampering; and his 1997 criminal felony conviction for stealing.

An officer with the Maryville, Mo., Police Department, who is assigned to NITRO, received information from an officer with the Buchanan County Drug Strike Force, which works in cooperation with NITRO, about a confidential informant who allegedly had information about **David's** firearms. Graves said the informant also told law enforcement officers that **David** was manufacturing methamphetamine and had several firearms at his residence.

(MORE)

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On October 14, 2002, the affidavit alleges that **David** told the confidential informant he wanted to trade an SKS assault rifle for a bottle of anhydrous ammonia, which is a primary component in the manufacturing of methamphetamine. The informant was also told that **David** was in possession of other ingredients used to manufacture methamphetamine, according to the affidavit, and that **David** wanted to sell two cases of quarry explosives and two cases of blasting caps.

Graves cautioned that the charge contained in the criminal complaint is simply an accusation, and is not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charge must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Bruce E. Clark. It was investigated by NITRO (Northwest Missouri Team Response Operation), the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the Maryville, Mo., Police Department, the Missouri State Highway Patrol and the Buchanan County Drug Strike Force.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow